



## **Staff Report**

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RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FILING OF THE FEDERAL SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) GRANT APPLICATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000 FOR THE U.S. HIGHWAY 101 BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE PROJECT, CITY CONTRACT NUMBER 433

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

### **Summary**

Staff is seeking approval from City Council to apply for the 2008 Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant for the amount of \$1,000,000 (maximum eligible funding amount) to fund construction of the U.S. Highway 101 Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge Project. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) administers the SRTS program in partnership with the District Local Assistance Engineers (DLAE) in each of the twelve California Districts. The application is due by July 18, 2008.

### **Background**

Following the success of California's Safe Routes to School Program (SR2S) and other similar programs in other states, Congress authorized a five-year federal funding program to achieve the same purpose nationwide. Section 1404 of Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), authorized the federal Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program in August 2005. Consistent with other federal-aid programs, each State Department of Transportation is held responsible for developing and implementing the program.

Construction of a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over U.S. Highway 101 is one of the City's priority projects. The project design is now complete and the City will be ready to invite bids for construction as soon as it obtains sufficient funding commitments. Public Works projects of this size are typically funded from several sources, drawing primarily from federal and state grants. The City's strategy for this project is to identify all appropriate grant opportunities and apply for grants as they become available. The City has identified \$400,000 of Park Improvement funds, but will not commit these funds until such time as it accumulates sufficient grant funding to complete the project.

The current estimate for the bicycle and pedestrian bridge is \$5.5 million for construction and construction management services. The City has secured the following funding:

<u>Secured Funding Sources</u>	<u>Amount</u>
• Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) FY 01/02	\$ 585,000
• Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)	\$2,600,000
• City funds (Park Improvement funds)	<u>\$ 400,000</u>
Total	\$3,585,000

Staff is watching for other funding opportunities and will recommend applying for them when they become available. One of the grants filed recently for this project is the Bicycle Facility Program (BFP) fund.

### **Discussion**

Caltrans has announced that approximately \$46 million in SRTS funds are available for the entire State of California. Eligible grant recipients will be responsible for the implementation of the project and must have the authority and capability to complete the project. An eligible project must meet the following goals to be considered for funding:

- To enable and encourage children in kindergarten through eighth grade (K-8), including children with disabilities, to safely walk and bicycle to school.
- To make walking and bicycling to school a more appealing mode choice.
- To facilitate the planning, design, and implementation of projects that will improve safety, environment, and the overall quality of life.

In addition to the above mentioned goals, a key restriction that has been set forth when applying for this grant is that the project must be within two miles of a grade school or middle school. Staff has identified four schools that are in the project's vicinity as required: 1) Sandpiper Elementary School (Redwood Shores), 2) Mae Nesbit Elementary School, 3) Central Elementary School, and 4) Notre Dame Elementary School.

### **General Plan/Vision Statement**

The installation of bicycle pathways comply with the General Plan – Circulation Element Goal #10: *"To provide a system of hiking and riding trails, pedestrian paths, bicycle paths and lanes to: a) Provide recreation, particularly scenic, quiet, leisurely neighborhood walks and rides; b) Furnish easy access to trails from individual properties; c) Permit safe, pleasant travel among parts of the community; d) Connect local areas within the City to through trails and paths and regional trail and path systems."*

**Fiscal Impact**

There is no direct fiscal impact from Council's approval of the SRTS grant application. If the application is approved, the funding will be used for the construction of the project.

**Public Contact**

Posting of City Council agenda.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that City Council authorize the Director of Public Works to submit an application for the federal Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant for the U.S. Highway 101 Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge project, City Contract Number 433.

**Alternatives**

1. Take no action.
2. Refer back to staff for further information.
3. Deny approval

**Attachments**

- A. Resolution

Respectfully submitted,

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Gilbert Yau, PE  
Senior Civil Engineer

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Raymond E. Davis III, PE, PTOE  
Director of Public Works

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Jack R. Crist  
City Manager

Staff contact:  
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Director of Public Works  
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RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELMONT APPROVING  
THE FILING OF THE FEDERAL SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) GRANT  
APPLICATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000 FOR THE U.S. HIGHWAY 101  
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE PROJECT, CITY CONTRACT NUMBER 433**

**WHEREAS**, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has made funds available through the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program to encourage and make it more convenient to walk and bicycle to school; and,

**WHEREAS**, the SRTS program allocates grant funds toward projects that increase bicycle and pedestrian safety and decrease vehicular traffic congestion in the vicinity of schools; and,

**WHEREAS**, staff is seeking approval for the City Council to apply for the federal Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant for the U.S. Highway 101 Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge project, City Contract Number 433 requesting an amount of \$1,000,000.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Belmont does hereby authorize the Director of Public Works to submit an application for the Federal Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant for the U.S. Highway 101 Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge project, City Contract Number 433.

\* \* \* \* \*

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Belmont at a regular meeting thereof held on July 8, 2008 by the following vote:

AYES, COUNCILMEMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_

NOES, COUNCILMEMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSTAIN, COUNCILMEMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT, COUNCILMEMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK of the City of Belmont

APPROVED:

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MAYOR of the City of Belmont